

## Lesson Plan: A Brief History of Fairfax County

### **Connection to POS: Topic 4: Public Policy Fairfax County Government**

This lesson focuses on the history of Fairfax County, Virginia. It includes a brief description of two key historic figures who came from the county, and addresses significant changes in county population.



### **Objectives**

At the end of this lesson students will be able to:

- Identify highlights of county history and contributions made by George Mason and George Washington
- Describe and explain historic trends in county population



### **Materials**

- *A Brief History of Fairfax County*, Donald M. Sweig, History Resources Information Series: Number 1 (1995). Photocopy enclosed in Notebook.
- *Washington & Fairfax* A 30 minute narrative documentary about significant events in the life of George Washington, his contributions to the nation, and his relationship to the Fairfax family. The video also covers the contributions made by George Mason to the founding.
- Transparency master: Chronology of Fairfax County History
- "Historical Sketch of Fairfax County": Fairfax County History Commission Web Page [<http://166.94.10.10/attractions/history.htm>]
- Student Handout – A Population Chronology of Fairfax County
- Student Handout – The Two Georges: George Washington and George Mason



### **Time Needed**

- 30 to 90 minutes



## Procedures

1. Begin by asking students what they know about the history of the county (people, places, and events.). Record their responses.
2. Have students individually read *A Brief History of Fairfax County* and list ten interesting facts in addition to those identified in the brainstorming session. Have small groups share, compare their lists. Note similarities and differences. Note the top 5-7 facts that a majority agrees are the most important.
3. After the reading and discussion show students the Two Georges transparency. Discuss.



## Extensions

- Create a historical scavenger list of questions about the history of Fairfax County. Assign students to search the web and print resources to complete the questions.
- Show the 30-minute video *Washington and Fairfax*. Ask students to take notes. Discuss. Use as a basis for student research projects.
- Have students work in groups to research the history (significant people, places, and events). Have students present their findings using either oral, print, and/or electronic methods.